

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8162

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02154

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, UK

SUBJECT: OECD TRADE PLEDGE

SIR PETER THORNTON, PERMANENT SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, TOLD US YESTERDAY, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, THAT HE SEES NO REASON THE UK WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A RENEWAL OF THE OECD TRADE PLEDGE, PROVIDED MAJOR COUNTRIES IN TRADE SURPLUS (HE MENTIONED GERMANY AND JAPAN) TAKE FURTHER MEASURES TO REFLATE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE MIGHT BE A PROBLEM OF THE RELATIONSHIP TO SAFEGUARDS FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES, MENTIONING PRESSURES FROM A NUMBER OF INDUSTRIES, NOTABLY TEXTILES, SHOES, PASSENGER CARS AND CERTAIN ELECTRONICS. WHEN WE RAISED THE SAME QUESTION IN AMBASSADOR TURNER'S MEETING WITH SIR DONALD MAITLAND AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE TODAY, MAITLAND SAID THE BRITISH POSITION IS NOT LIKELY TO BE SETTLED FOR SOME TIME. SIDNEY ABRAMSON, DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, WHO ALSO WAS
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PRESENT, COMMENTED IN SOMEWHAT LESS ENCOURAGING WORDS THAN THORNTON, BUT MADE THE SAME POINTS, I.E. THAT

THERE MAY BE PROBLEMS BOTH WITH RESPECT TO
(A) PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES AND (B) THE POLICIES OF
COUNTRIES IN A TRADE SURPLUS POSITION.

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Message Attributes

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